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Current, February 28, 2000

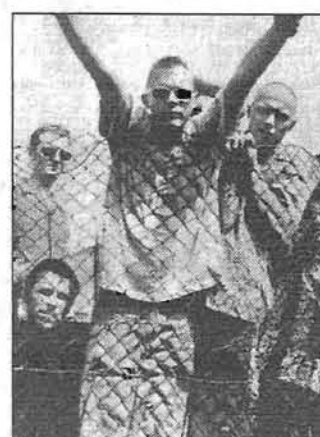
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What's Inside



Catch the fever: Spring sports are just around the corner! Inside the newspaper this week, you'll find the *Sports Update*, a special 8-page look at the upcoming season.

▲ Look inside!

U-Wire News

Student reports fake robbery to get paper extension

BY DYLAN MCKINLEY
Arizona Daily Wildcat

(U-WIRE) TUCSON, Ariz. — University police arrested a University of Arizona student Monday after he falsely told police he was robbed at gunpoint in an attempt at extending the due date on a term paper.

Peter Bernstein, 18, of La Paz Residence Hall, 602 N. Highland Ave., told police Sunday a Hispanic man held a gun to him and stole his wallet near Manzanita-Mohave Residence Hall on North Park Avenue. Bernstein then helped UAPD detective Jose Sprigg form a composite sketch of the alleged suspect.

But after a UA Grounds and Labor employee found Bernstein's wallet Monday with no contents missing in a garbage can near La Paz, Sprigg became suspicious, and asked Bernstein if he was telling the truth, police reports stated.

Bernstein then admitted to falsifying the report, Sprigg said. "Peter is not a bad kid," Sprigg said. "He just made a mistake. We see a lot of abnormal activity from students when they are under a lot of academic stress. We just wish they would cope with the stress in a more productive matter."

Bernstein was cited on suspicion of false reporting Monday morning after he spoke with Sprigg for a second time.

Yesterday Bernstein declined comment on the incident.

Sprigg ordered the composite sketch pulled from the police bulletin and UAPD sergeants were notified that the report was falsified.

Sgt. Michael Smith, UAPD spokesman, said falsifying reports will not be tolerated by the department.

"Obviously, any type of false reporting is a crime," Smith said. "What bothers me more is that he picked out a specific race to falsely accuse."

Smith said this information could have had bad results.

"If any of our officers had come across a man that fit the description Bernstein gave a half-hour after he said it happened, that man would have had quite a bit of trauma from dealing with police," Smith said. "And what if another officer got in an accident racing to the scene for backup?"

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Wife of presidential hopeful visits campus

BY SUE BRITT
staff assistant

Ernestine Schlant-Bradley, wife of Sen. Bill Bradley, spoke Tuesday at UM-St. Louis of her husband's bid for the democratic nomination for president and some of his stands on issues.

Schlant-Bradley said Bradley is the best candidate for women for a variety of reasons: She said he supports a health care plan that would allow anyone to buy insurance through the federal employees health care system; he supports a woman's "right to choose," and he has always supported Title IX, affording women more access to equality in education. She also said that Bradley helped to pass legislation to ensure that women would be allowed 48 hours to recover in a hospital after giving birth. Schlant-Bradley said that another issue her husband supports, campaign finance reform, is also a woman's issue in that it is difficult for women to raise money needed to run for office.

Schlant-Bradley discussed what she called "social justice" issues. "I love the idea that when President Roosevelt, in the midst of the Depression, the worst depression we have ever had, was able under his leadership to create Social Security," Schlant-Bradley said. "Why, when the economy is so good, can we not have



Ernestine Schlant-Bradley talks to Gergia VanCleve, a friend of the Bradley family for many years. Schlant-Bradley spoke about her husband's bid for the presidency Tuesday.

health care?"

Stephen Caliendo, a visiting assistant professor of political science at UM-St. Louis, said that Bradley's stands on issues such as "social justice" and "environmental justice" are broad-

er than most other candidates' stands.

"The thing I think about the Bradley campaign that is intriguing to me... is that he is really trying to articulate his

see SCHLANT-BRADLEY, page 5

Committee extends deadline for student Senate applications

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

It's possible that a seat in the University Senate will be available to any student who applies. That's because as of Friday, only five students filed papers to run for the 25 available student seats.

Incumbents D. Mike Bauer, Joshua Stegeman and Joshua Miller, and two students not currently in the Senate—Joseph Flees II and Robert C. Montague II—filled out applications.

The three-member Senate committee running the election originally set the deadline for filing at 10 a.m. Thursday Feb. 24, but by then only three had applied, said Andrea Kerley, a student senator and member of the committee running the election.

In an effort to garner more candidates, Kerley said, the committee decided to extend the deadline until 1 p.m. Friday March 3. The election was originally scheduled for March 1

and 2, but has been postponed until March 9 and 10.

Students in good standing who have completed at least nine credit hours and have a grade point average of at least 2.0 may apply.

The faculty-dominated 121-member University Senate is UM-St. Louis' governing body.

When asked about the apparent lack of interest in the Senate seats, Leonie Carillo, a senior transfer student majoring in chemistry, said, "I didn't even know it existed."

"It hasn't been publicized," said student Jim Barrow. "I don't read *The Current* on a regular basis. Where's the fliers? Where's the advertising? How the hell do you find out about this stuff?"

Freshman Mark Richardson said the Senate was not a priority in his life. "I have a busy life between work and school." However, he added, "Somebody should be involved in it."

see ELECTIONS, page 5

SABC hopes new review process will save time

BY JOE HARRIS
senior editor

Changes in the student budget allocation process will now allow the Student Allocation Budget Committee to make tentative allocations without requiring an initial hearing, Bryan Shaw, co-chair of the Student Activities Budget Committee, announced at the February Student Government Association meeting.

"Due to the fact that the forms have changed this year, and it's done on a program-to-program basis and for each program that is requesting money, it requires a detailed write-up on how they arrived at costs," Shaw said. "Basically [we are] trying to knock out that first hearing that involves a lot of time."

Shaw said that in the past, student organizations had just one column for each program on the budget request forms. He said that some-

times the column would just consist of the name of the program and vital information would be left out because of the lack of space.

Without the information, Shaw said, the SABC would have to call the organization to schedule a hearing to answer the committee's questions about the program. Shaw said the revamped forms allow each organization to write a detailed summary about each of its programs and answer the SABC's questions without a hearing.

Shaw said the new process saves time for both the SABC and the student organizations.

The hearings "take away from the time the SABC could be deliberating on all the other budgets, and it kind of wastes the time of that organization because they would have to come in," Shaw said.

Another time-saving measure

see SABC, page 5

Students wary of FERPA implementation at UMSL

BY JOE HARRIS
staff editor

Students concerned with the implementation of a 1998 amendment to the Family Educational Right to Privacy Act on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus voiced their fears to administrators Thursday afternoon in the Hawthorn Room.

The amendment allows universities to report alcohol violations to parents of students younger than 21. The universities, though, have some leeway in how it is implemented.

Students there said they worried about how FERPA would be implemented, and whether their constitutional rights would be violated. Some asked if FERPA made possible new programs to help students.

G. Gary Grace, vice chancellor of Student Affairs, said the guidelines haven't been written yet because the Department of Education has not completed the rule-making process for FERPA. Grace said the issue of implementation is complicated.

"We talked about the rights of the individual versus the community and one can't win over the other," Grace said. "We've got to protect the rights of students to have a safe place and that their records are going to be maintained

in a confidential way."

Rick Eccher, chief justice of the Student Court, said he questions the constitutionality of FERPA.

"My issue is if there's going to be a group of people ages 18 to 21 who are legally emancipated and should not have their parents called... and those people have their parents called," Eccher said, "three or four years down the road the U.S. Supreme Court could legally say that this law is unconstitutional for that group."

Eccher also proposed forming a group of student counselors to help identify alcohol abuse problems in students under the age of 21. The group would be made up of psychology and sociology graduate students who have passed the test to become state certified counselors.

Eccher said such a group would give those graduate students hands-on experience before graduation.

"That group would be students helping students to make this essential diagnosis of whether these people are alcoholics or social drinkers, and how to draw that line," Eccher said. "It would also be educational in a sense that we would be giving our graduate students so many hours, so many years of time as substance-abuse counselors."

see FERPA FORUM, page 5

UM-St. Louis participates in its first mock trial competition



Rafael Macias/The Current

The members of the UM-St. Louis mock trial team. Back row: Lynn Ann Waldmann, Jacqueline Sarris, Sue Britt, Erika Williams, sponsor Stephen Caliendo, Denny Lees, Harmony Wade, Cheryl Baehr, Penny Andrews, and Anna Juergens. Front row: Chris Court, Anita Steed, Tony Colombo, Ben Dobbe, Kadisha Esperanto. Sarris and Steed were named "outstanding witnesses" at the Mock Trial and Dobbe and Wade were named "outstanding attorneys."

Despite success, group's future looks uncertain

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

Four teams from UM-St. Louis competed in their first collegiate Mock Trial competition at Washington University Feb. 18, 19 and 20, and brought home five trophies. However, that may be the last time UM-St. Louis participates in Mock Trial competition.

Mock Trial's faculty sponsor, Stephen Caliendo, is a visiting assistant professor of political science whose contract runs out at the end of the school year, and the Mock Trial organization has no funding for next year.

Jackie Sarris, a senior majoring in communications who took home a trophy as an Outstanding Witness, said she learned more from Mock Trial than she did from any of her classes.

"You're not just sitting there reading a textbook and listening to a lecture," Sarris said. "You're doing something."

Sarris played a forensic pathologist in a murder trial.

Every year, the American Mock Trial Association gives all its member schools the same packet of information about a made-up case, and teams of students try the case over and over in mock courts.

This year, students worked with a case of a man accused of killing his best friend by hitting him in the head with a shovel, said Kadisha Esperanto, a student and captain of one of the teams. Judges gave contestants scores for how they performed as witnesses and attorneys giving testimony and performing direct- and cross-examination. The judges don't choose winners based on what verdicts they say they would give, but on the highest scores. Two judges rate each trial.

UM-St. Louis entered four teams. Esperanto's team placed seventh out of the 13 teams competing.

UM-St. Louis's teams were at a disadvantage this year because the University didn't allocate any money

for mock trial, Caliendo said.

"I had to scrounge for money" for dues, Caliendo said. "Most schools go [their packets] in September or early October. We got ours in December and I gave it to the students before Christmas."

Caliendo said the political science department gave mock trial \$250. The law firm of Casey and Meyerko funded the rest and two of its lawyers volunteered to help. "The police were nice enough to grant them parking permits," Caliendo said.

The University hasn't allocated any money for mock trial for next year, either, Caliendo said.

But there may be no point in allocating money for Mock Trial if it has no faculty sponsor.

"I do [mock trial] for free above it regular course teaching load Caliendo said. "I would be uncomfortable to ask any faculty member to do for free."

see MOCK TRIAL, page 5

Bulletin Board

Put it on the Board:

The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations and University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m. every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest all submissions be posted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Erin Streammel, 7940 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis MO 63121 or fax 516-6811.

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Monday, Feb. 28

•Noon Cultural Series presents "Why Science Exhibits Don't Always Need to be Accurate." Jay Rounds, Des Lee Professor of Museum Studies and director of the graduate program in museum studies, will explore what science museum exhibits are really about and asks why some are interesting and others are boring. Open to all those interested, the event will be in 229 J. C. Penney and will last until 1 p.m.

•NOW meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Room 72 J. C. Penney. There will be a discussion of women's health issues with a professional from the UMSL health clinic. Parking will be available in the metered lot next to the building and there will be reserved spaces for NOW meeting attendees.

•Center for International Studies presents "July 2000 Presidential Elections," the first of The Rolando Lara Zavala Memorial Lecture in Mexican Studies. This event will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Summit Lounge and a reception will follow. There is no charge and for more information call 7299.

Tuesday, Feb. 29

•Prayer Group at Newman Center (8200 Natural Bridge Rd.) will meet at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 1

•March Madness Badminton is something fun and active to do over your lunch hour. Come and play every Mon. and Wed. in March. Drop by the Mark Twain Gym from 12 to 1 p.m. No advanced registration is necessary.

•Resume Writing Skills Workshop, sponsored by Career Services, will be from 10 to 10:30 a.m. in Room 308 Woods Hall. Create a resume that makes a positive first impression. Advanced registration is required. Call 5111 to register or enroll in person at Career Services.

•Soup and Soul Food will be from 12 to 12:50 p.m. at the Normandy United Methodist Church.

•Andreas Triantafyllou will be playing piano in Room 205 Music Building beginning at 12 p.m. This is a free event.

•Rec Sports Registration Deadline is today for the Wallyball Triples Tournament (a one-night tourney to be held Thurs., March 8, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Mark Twain Racquetball Courts) and Floor Hockey Leagues (with games played on Wed. evenings at the Mark Twain Gym starting March 8). Open to students, faculty and staff. Sign up and receive more information in the Rec Sports Office, 203 Mark Twain.

•Multicultural Relations/Academic Affairs presents "Diversity in America", number five of their Student Dialogue Brown Bag Series. Karen Johnson of Empowerment Inc. will be speaking from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Room 222 J. C. Penney. UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend.

Thursday, March 2

•Percussion Ensemble will be playing in the Villa Lounge, Marillac Provincial House beginning at 7:30 p.m. This is a free event.

•Center for International Studies presents "Economic Reform Under Zedillo: Too Much or Too Little?" (which will begin at 9:30 a.m.) and "The Fiscal Weaknesses of the Mexican State: Causes and Implications" (which will begin at 2 p.m.), also part of The Rolando Lara Zavala Memorial Lecture in Mexican Studies. These events will be located in Room 331 Social Sciences and Business Building. There is no charge and for more information call 7299.

Friday, March 3

•How to Utilize Career Services Workshop, sponsored by Career Services, will be from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Room 308 Woods Hall.

Learn about the job search resources that are available. Call 5111 to register or enroll in person at Career Services.

Sunday, March 5

•RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will begin at 4 and run until 5:30 p.m. at Newman House (8200 Natural Bridge Rd.).

Monday, March 6

•Noon Cultural Series presents "Beach Boys and Brothels: The Sex Industry in Sri Lanka." Jody Miller, assistant professor, and Dheeshama Jayasundera, M. A. candidate, criminology and criminal justice, present their research findings on prostitution in Sri Lanka. Open to all those interested, the event will be in 229 J. C. Penney and will last until 1 p.m.

•Israel at 52: Educating for a Technological Age, sponsored by the Center for International Studies and featuring Dr. Yehudit (Judy) Dori and Dr. Dov Dori, will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Southwester Bell Telecommunity Center. A reception will follow and admission is free. For more information call 7299.

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Student: *Toya Like*

Years: 4
 Major: Criminology
 Home Town: St. Louis

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Toya Like is a top student in the Criminology and Criminal Justice program at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. It's a program that's routinely ranked among the top ten in the nation. She believes that the quality of the criminology program is a direct result of the quality of its faculty.

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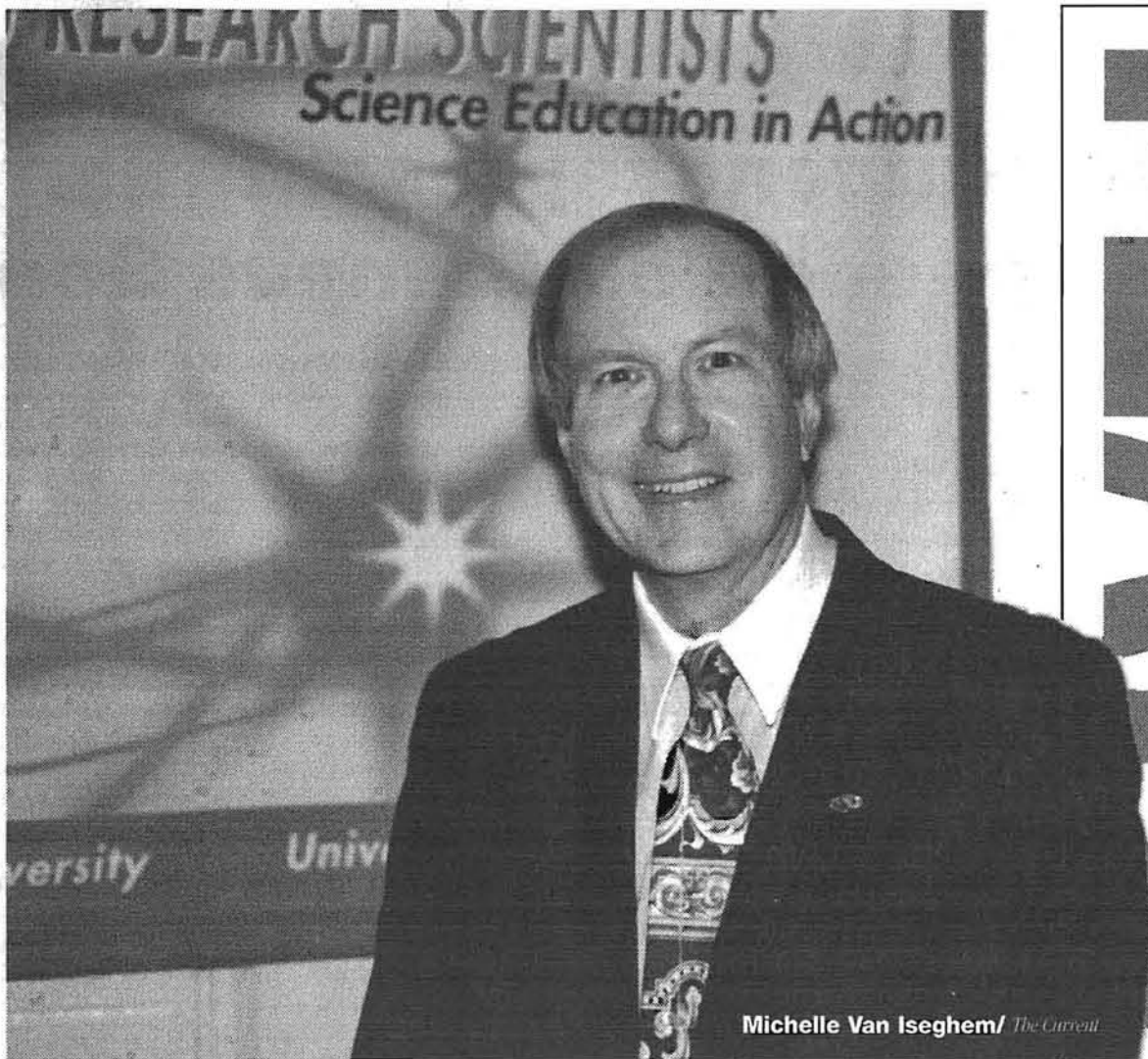
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Making Students look for job opportunities through CAES program Connections



Michelle Van Iseghem/The Current

Kenneth Mares talks about the CAES program as a recruitment effort for students seeking jobs in the science field.

RHASHAD PITTMAN
staff assistant

Any local, science-related business or research institution in search of young summer employees can view the credentials and backgrounds of some of the top undergraduate students in the nation through the Collaborative for Applied Experiences in Science (CAES) program.

CAES director Kenneth Mares said the main purpose of the program is to "try to get students to come back to St. Louis to get a feel for job opportunities and the St. Louis workplace."

Many of the students involved with the pro-

gram attend local universities such as St. Louis University, Washington University, and the University of Missouri-Rolla. However, a number of the other participants are students at other schools like Duke University, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Although the approximately 90 students differ in colleges, nearly all of them share high grade point averages and prior experience in their area of study.

"All applicants are graduates of precollegiate science or mathematics programs and are currently enrolled in leading institutions of higher education throughout the country," Mares said. "They have all indicated an interest

in science-based work experience in the St. Louis area. All applicants have completed at least one year of mathematics, science or engineering curriculum and have impressive academic records."

The CAES applicants showed great interest when they submitted all of their information to Mares via the Internet, he said.

"They call and say, 'I don't want to work at McDonald's this summer.' [There's] nothing wrong with McDonald's, but they want to work in science," Mares said.

After receiving the information, Mares separated the students according to their majors and posted them on the CAES web site, www.umsl.edu/~sep/caestoc.html.

There are a wide variety of majors to choose from. The students involved major in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, computer science, economics, engineering (all disciplines), interdisciplinary studies, mathematics, physics, psychology or are undeclared science majors. CAES is part of the Science Education Programs Office, and is sponsored by the E. Reuben and Gladys Flora Grant Charitable Trust and the University of Missouri-St. Louis in cooperation with the St. Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association/St. Louis Regional Science and Technology Alliance.

For more information, contact Mares at (314) 516-6155, or e-mail him at biokmare@admiral.umsl.edu.

Health Services can provide many ways to keep students in top form for classes

BY CHARMANE MALONE
staff associate

UM-St. Louis' University Health Services has more to offer than an Advil and a Band-Aid.

The health service is on the fast track to becoming a full service clinic, whereas only five years ago the office could only give students minor medical assistance, they now can prescribe birth control, conduct gynecological exams and treat many non-emergency health ailments.

According to Amy Schoenberger, a health educator, the student health clinic has added many new services since Nancy Magnuson became the student health services administrator. The clinic houses two full-time nurse practitioners and two registered nurses. Schoenberger works part-time as a registered nurse within the clinic and holds health-related workshops, sets up information tables and has various screening throughout campus.

For basic services, there is not a copay as with most doctor visits with insurance. The clinic treats minor injury and illness. It conducts strep throat testing, pregnancy testing, urinalysis, immunizations, birth control and STD consultation. Physical exams, pap smears and hearing screenings are also done in the office. Most of the time students are able to be seen as walk-ins, but as more students utilize the facility, students needing exams and screenings may want to call ahead to make an appointment.

"Treat us like your doctor's office," says Schoenberger.

Small fees may apply to certain tests and some medications can be obtained at a very low price. Schoenberger says the goal is to provide affordable health care for students who are, many times, on a tight budget.

Schoenberger stresses prevention is a student's best asset for staying healthy while attending college.

Schoenberger thinks it is important to obtain some kind of health insurance as well as utilizing the services in her office.

"Many students do not know affordable health insurance is available and really do not know the full importance of having it," said Schoenberger.

UM-St. Louis offers a Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Plan for all students that may not be covered by their parents' or employers' medical plans. The University's plan covers students during the semester the plan is purchased and assists them with doctor and emergency visits and hospitalization.

Schoenberger says supplemental health coverage can be purchased that covers dental, vision and prescriptions.

"What we want students to know [is] that these are just options, they are more than welcome to find something better that suits their need," says Schoenberger.

The student health clinic recognizes that even students that cannot afford any form of insurance will still be able to get some assistance from University Health Services.

Validation for handicapped parking is handled through Health Services upon presentation of medical documentation verifying a disability that impairs mobility.

University Health Services is located at 127 Woods Hall and is open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m.-7 p.m. and on Fridays 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

The list of services provided at University Health Services includes:

Allergy Injection
STD Testing
Blood Pressure Check
Handicap Parking
Hearing Screening

Pap Smears
Physical Exam
Pregnancy Test
Rapid Strep Test
Urine Drug Screen
Weight Check
TB Test
Cholesterol Check
Hepatitis B Vaccine
Measles Booster
Mono Test

Tips for staying well at college:

1. Try to eat well-balanced meals. Don't skip breakfast. If you are short on time, have a piece of fruit, cheese and crackers, granola bars, or peanut butter on a slice of bread.
2. Take a 20-30 minute relaxation and exercise break each day. Go outside for a walk. Explore opportunities available for exercise on campus.
3. Attempt to get a least six hours of sleep each night.
4. Do not get into the habit of using caffeine, alcohol, medications or drugs, excess sugar, or smoking as a means of relieving stress. These only contribute to health problems.
5. Learn how to properly manage common illnesses such as colds, sore throats and gastrointestinal problems.
6. Make informed, sensible decisions regarding sexual activity.
7. Learn specific stress reduction techniques and use them. For assistance with stress management contact Counseling Services or University Health Services.
8. Do not hesitate to seek assistance and support when needed. Become familiar with support services on campus and what they offer.
9. Maintain a positive attitude and enjoy your college experience. Your days at college may be remembered as some of the best days of your life.

Eames exhibit shows inventions of couple

BY ANNE PORTER
staff editor

Everyone knows them, those plastic deep-seated chairs used in high school biology classes. What most people don't know, however, is who invented them and made them part of everyday life in America. They can be found in schools, businesses, train stations, lobbies and waiting rooms everywhere.

The St. Louis Art Museum offers an opportunity to see the work and process of the inventors of the infamous plastic chair. The exhibit, "The Work of Charles and Ray Eames: A Legacy of Invention", opened Feb. 19 and will be on display until May 14.

Charles and Ray Eames (husband and wife) modernized furniture and the lifestyle of America after World War II. The exhibit features more than 500 artifacts such as drawings, models, videos, photographs, toys and experimental pieces. Through this work the Eameses hoped to improve life in modern-day America by combining both American and international traditions, adding a sense of play and informality to work, and all while keeping their work affordable and accessible to the general public.

"Much of mathematics has the appeal of magic, pure magic," Charles Eames said in 1961.

"What works is better than what looks good. The looks can change, but what works, works," Ray Eames said.

Cara McCarty, the Grace L. Brumbaugh and Richard E. Brumbaugh curator of decorative arts and design, created the layout of the exhibit at the St. Louis Art Museum.

"That's a common response of people, 'So, that's who did this?'" McCarty said.

McCarty included some objects only in the St. Louis exhibition of the show: a display of wood furniture and metalwork such as a fire screen, a chandelier, andirons, a wooden table-

and-chair set. Charles Eames designed the works in 1936 for the Philip and Alice Meyer House located in Huntleigh in St. Louis County.

"I was really glad we could include that component. It really marked Charles [Eames'] debut as a designer," McCarty said.

In addition to the St. Louis artifacts, a model of the Eames home (Case Study House #8), Christmas cards, ephemera, and other objects from the Eames' office, chair shell experiments from 1941 to 1945, and a molded plywood leg splint are available for viewing.

"The great thing is it's so encompassing about Charles' and Ray's approach to life. Here [someone] can see experiments in the new modern materials of fiberglass and aluminum. It's wonderful how to see an experiment, to see the whole design process at work, to see the models and prototypes. [It is] the real craftsman approach and [it creates] an intimacy with the piece from start to finish," McCarty said.

In the 1950s, the Eameses were commissioned by the Indian government to make recommendations about industrialization and mass-production without losing the traditional appeal of the craft.

The "India Report," submitted in 1958, led to the establishment of the National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad in 1961, the first of its kind in the developing world.

One aspect that McCarty particularly enjoys about the exhibit is the combination of both private-side articles like toys and travel souvenirs and public-life pieces such as drawings and diagrams of the Eameses.

"I think it enriches the exhibit," McCarty said. "Their lifestyle and work design - an all embracing approach - they lived it and breathed it."

For more information, call the St. Louis Art Museum at (314) 721-0072.

FEATUR

ANNE PORTER
features editor

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**Thoughts
for Today**

**"The best of seers is
he who guesses well."**

-Euripides
Credit: Peter's Quotations:
Ideas for Our Time

**"Love your enemy - it
will drive him nuts."**

-Eleanor Doan
Credit: Peter's Quotations:
Ideas for Our Time

**"You can be sincere
and still be stupid."**

-Charles F. Kettering
Credit: Peter's Quotations:
Ideas for Our Time

**"Patriotism is the will-
ingness to kill and be
killed for trivial rea-
sons."**

-Bertrand Russell
Credit: 1,911 Best Things
Anybody Ever Said

**"Nobody roots for
Goliath."**

-Wilt Chamberlain
Credit: 1,911 Best Things
Anybody Ever Said

Tattooing can make painful statement about you



AND THE POINT IS...

ANNE PORTER

If anyone ever says that getting a tattoo is not painful, they must have been on Novocain during the experience.

Instead of going to Homecoming last week, I decided to get a tattoo. I had been thinking about this for about a year, so it occurred to me that it was time, and I enlisted the help of a previously tattooed friend to accompany me.

The first step, selecting a design, probably took the most time. This little addition to my body would be there for quite a while, so it has to be time-applicable. Since I adore sea turtles, I selected this as my permanent body art choice.

I then discovered that I had just

become a member of the group of the seven-and-a-half people in the world that adore sea turtle tattoos. It took about two hours to find an appropriate water reptile—not one that was evil looking, or in a weird dilated position, but one that appeared friendly and life-like.

I did finally locate a suitable turtle, but he was only half a turtle, so the artist, named Nate, had to draw him, the turtle, to complete form.

"Fred," the water turtle, as I have named him for simplicity's sake, was ready to swim into my skin. But I still had to wait a bit for an available chair.

During this time, I pondered just what I was doing and thinking when I decided to do this, but I figured I was

there and was going to finish the experiment.

This experiment, oh, wait a minute, I meant experience... I had heard many things that people had said concerning no pain, just an annoying buzz (blatant lie) and then once you get one, you are addicted in all caps.

So Nate escorted me to a little room with an open door and wide window. Since I selected a very sensitive location of both flesh and bone, my hip, for "Fred's" new home, Nate closed the blind and reclined the chair, and raised it until I was about a foot below the light.

The best way I can sum up the feeling of the needle on my flesh would be getting a cavity filled without

Novocain for about 40 minutes. But I had my pride; I would not cry, scream, tear out my hair or mutilate myself or Nate.

I did wince a whole lot though. "The outline hurts the most," Nate said.

The pain of a motorized needle and a pelvic bone did seem to subside for a bit. Then a new pain visited me—tender stomach tissue pain. Both equal, but different animals of the temptations of a tattoo in this body area.

During my time in the chair, other artists walked in to see Fred's progress. One joked about his walk on the beach when he saw a mother turtle laying eggs and about what exactly "endangered" meant.

Discomfort returned for about the last 20 minutes, but I tolerated it with relentless ambition.

And then Fred was there on hip along with a little extra ink in his vibrant colors of green, yellow and black with red eyes. For about the next couple of nights I slept on one hip or with the tattooed hip raised, and I applied vitamin A and D ointment to avoid scabbing.

Here I am, virtually pain free, only more colorful. Whoever told me tattoos can be addicting is completely right.

Despite the pain I withstood, I would go return in a second. In fact, I'm planning the next tattoo, which I think will be a dragon.

I won't even hold anyone's hand.

STUDENT OPINION

Editorial Board

JOE HARRIS
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BENJAMIN ISRAEL
CHARMANE MALONE
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"Our Opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the editorial board

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Letters to the editor should be brief and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity, length and grammar. All letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number.

Under Current
by Mutsumi Igarashi
staff photographer

Are you going to vote in the March primary?

OUR OPINION

Student representation needed on Campus Senate

The issue:

For years the faculty senators of the UM-St. Louis University Senate have complained about the empty student seats at senate meetings. In the past, few students even bothered to apply for these seats, let alone attend meetings. Recently, however, students have been applying for these seats and most attend the meetings. Despite this rise in student interest, the faculty members of the senate have decided to divide the body into two parts and reduce the number of student seats. Now only five students have applied for candidacy for next year's senate.

We suggest:

The time has again come to fill the student seats of the campus senate. With limited seats available, student representation is needed now more than ever. We encourage you to apply for the senate and give us our due representation

So what do you think?

Write a letter to the editor about this issue or anything else on your mind.

It appears the faculty members in the University Senate may finally get their way.

As of Friday, only five candidates had applied to become student senators next fall. While this poor showing is disappointing, it's not altogether surprising.

Faculty senators have been complaining for years about a lack of student involvement in the Senate. Often, only a handful of candidates would apply for the 25 Senate seats available to students. Those who were elected attended senate meetings infrequently, if at all.

In the last couple of years, however, students started bucking the trend. In 1998, 42 candidates applied to become student senators. For the first time in several years there had been more candidates than positions. In 1999, 44 candidates competed in the elections. Student attendance at meetings, while not perfect, has been improving. This year's crop of student senators even took the initiative to form an organization that would allow them to pool their efforts and exert more power in Senate affairs.

You would think the students' faculty counterparts in the Senate would be pleased with the increased student involvement. Unfortunately, they weren't. The long period of student apathy toward the Senate gave faculty members plenty of time to develop an anti-student bias. Students were discouraged from speaking at Senate meetings and from participating in the senate's subcommittees. Faculty members began discussing ways they could "streamline" the Senate, a process that would involve eliminating all or part of the student seats.

Last fall, the Senate finally made that wish into a reality when they voted to divide the University Senate into two bodies and relegate students to the one with the least power. This move reduced the number of student seats from 25 to 13. Although the split must still be approved by the Board of Curators, there is no indication at this point that the board will have any objection to it.

It's hard to blame students for their lack of enthusiasm toward the Senate elections. The Senate has decided to carry on with the elections despite the fact that the Board of Curators has not made the senate split official. No one can say with absolute certainty whether students will have 13 seats or 25 seats available to them next year. It's difficult to encourage students to run for a position that may not exist in a few months.

It's also difficult to ask students to become members of a body in which they will be virtually ignored. As one former student senator said in an article in this week's issue, "The faculty, I think, does pretty much what they want." Many Senate faculty members have made it clear that student involvement is not desired in the senate. With the current shortage of student candidates, one must wonder if the faculty senators are pleased with the prospect of having to deal with so few students next year.

We do not believe that apathy is the most constructive way to deal with the daunting obstacles facing student senators. Given that the faculty senators have clearly demonstrated that they don't have our best interests in mind, we need to take advantage of every vote we can get. While having 13 students to speak on our behalf is not ideal, it's certainly better than having five. We therefore encourage students to keep our voice in the Senate alive and apply for candidacy as a student senator.

Parental notification of drug and alcohol violations makes campus safer

Well, we blew it.

In 1974, the U.S. Congress passed the Family Educational Right to Privacy Act, a law that required colleges and universities to keep information about students' grades, finances and disciplinary problems private, even from a student's parents. The law was a product of the time during which it was passed. In post-Vietnam-era America, we reasoned that if an 18-year-old is old enough to die in battle, then an 18-year-old is old enough to take responsibility for his or her actions as a student. It simply didn't make sense to report a kid to his parents just because he was caught with a Budweiser in his dorm room. Hence, FERPA was born.

How times have changed. In the last three decades, the amount of binge drinking on college campuses has increased dramatically. According to a 1998 study by Harvard University, 43 percent of college students engage in binge drinking. Each year, an average of 50 students die from alcohol poisoning.

Campus binge drinking has also been associated with injuries, arrests, assaults, drunk driving and property damage. Because of these incidents, the mood of society has changed from that of protecting the privacy of the individual to protecting students from themselves.

We blew it.

Congress responded to public pressure in 1998 by amending FERPA to allow colleges and universities the option of reporting the drug and alcohol violations of students younger than 21 to their parents. The University of Missouri system must now decide how to implement the

amendment, an issue which was discussed at a forum last Thursday.

System administrators are currently developing guidelines for UM campuses to use when dealing with minors' drug and alcohol violations. According to G. Gary Grace, vice chancellor of Student Affairs, the guidelines will likely allow the University, under certain circumstances, to notify the parents of minors who incur a drug or alcohol violation.

Exactly what those circumstances will be is uncertain. It appears parents will be notified for repeat rather than first-time offenses, for instances when students endanger the lives of themselves or others, and for instances when the offense violates a previous sanction against the student. Grace said exceptions to the guidelines could be made under extenuating circumstances.

The issue for students is twofold: whether the University should take advantage of the amendment to FERPA and notify parents of their child's drug and alcohol violations, and if parental notification does take place, under what circumstances should it occur?

We feel that parental notification is not only appropriate, it's necessary. The rampant alcohol abuse that occurs on college campuses around the country is a glaring message that we're not mature enough to handle the privileges of adulthood FERPA initially granted to us in 1974. Grace noted that the drinking pattern a student establishes in college often lasts for the rest of the student's life. If parental notification can deter students from engaging in behavior that can have severe short- and long-term consequences, then it is well worth doing.

Grace indicated that the new guidelines will be flexible enough to allow campus administrators to determine when parents should be notified. We feel that a policy of notifying the parents of repeat offenders would be the most appropriate course of action. A student who incurs a first offense would be allowed the opportunity to learn from his or her mistake; if a student is unable to do so, then punishment is warranted.

We believe, however, that there are some circumstances under which administrators should make exceptions. For example, a first-time offender who injures himself or someone else should be disciplined immediately rather than waiting for another to occur.

We also hope the University will exercise extreme caution when deciding which violations should be reported to parents. The decision to report is a highly subjective one, and administrators will likely find themselves dealing with situations for which there is no clear-cut answer. It is up to students to be aware of exactly how the University enforces the new guidelines once they go into effect and to ensure that these guidelines are being implemented in a manner that is fair to students.

Ultimately, giving administrators the flexibility to notify parents requires a great deal of faith on our part; we must trust administrators to be both just and fair. However, given the depth of the problem of binge drinking, we are left with no choice but to trust the administration. We've already proven that we can't trust ourselves.

Friendships can be stronger than steel

For a long time now—ever since I started dating about 10 years ago—I've known that men and women communicate quite differently.

Men and women often say things to each other that could easily be misinterpreted. This "men are from Mars, women are from Venus" type of communication is one of the things that makes relationships between the opposite sexes interesting.

I think the same can be said for friendships between men and women. For the most part (from what I've seen), women view their male friends much like their female friends, as either really good friends or associates. Most men, though, seem to lump their female friends into two categories: sleeping with them, or not sleeping with them (just kidding).

However, after putting all of the overblown negative stereotypes aside, there are actually big differences in the ways men express their friendships with other men as opposed to how women express their friendships with other women. This was no more apparent to me than in two separate incidents within the last two weeks.

A couple of weeks ago I was at a bar with some friends and a newer acquaintance. While talking to the acquaintance, I found out that he went to high school with a fraternity brother of mine from Mizzou named Matt.

Matt and I have been good friends for several years, and he was one of the reasons I joined the fraternity in the first place. Evidently, this acquaintance had some sort of falling out with Matt in high school, and he started



JOE HARRIS
editor-in-chief

saying some very negative things about him.

At that point, instead of arguing with the guy about something that was really none of my business, I told him that Matt is a really good friend of mine and somebody I would throw down for in an instant (throw down meaning get into a fight for). The acquaintance understood and the topic of conversation immediately shifted to another topic.

Last weekend I went to visit Matt. He lives in Jefferson City, and we hadn't had time to hang out together in almost a year. While introducing me to some of his friends, he said "This is Joe, a really good friend of mine and one of the few guys I would throw down for."

The irony was stunning. Throwing down for each other was something we had never discussed before, but within two weeks in two separate conversations we both said it.

On the drive home, I started thinking about this. Women (again, from what I've seen) never say they would fight for each other. When introducing their friends, women tend to take a much more civilized approach. I guess it's a testosterone thing for men.

The funny thing is that neither I nor Matt are violent people, yet we describe our friendship in violent terms. In fact, in some of the male social circles I have observed, having somebody willing to "throw down" for you is like a badge of honor.

Why is that? I don't know. That's for sociologists to figure out.

Eager student settles for mediocrity

As I was walking to class a few days ago, I came across a group of people taking the campus tour. The members of the group, most of whom appeared young enough to still be in high school, looked fresh-faced, eager and anxious to attend UM-St. Louis next fall.

I thought about the time three years ago when I took that same campus tour. Like those I saw last week, I was actually excited about the prospect of transferring here. I had been attending a college in Chicago and, to make a long story short, the city and the school just didn't agree with me. I was ready to come back to St. Louis. The comments I'd heard people make about UM-St. Louis over the years weren't the most glowing of reviews, but it still sounded like a decent enough school. I was looking forward to coming home and making a fresh start at a new school.

I had thought, at the time, that taking the tour was the smart thing to do. I even came prepared with a long list of questions. I was determined to avoid repeating my experience in Chicago, determined to find a school from which I would be satisfied graduating. Trouble was, I asked the wrong questions. Within a few months of coming to UM-St. Louis, I found myself becoming a bit disenchanted with the school I had chosen.

I should have asked if all the courses listed in the Bulletin were actually available. I discovered after coming here that several courses in my major (the ones I was most interested in taking and which had been a factor in my decision to come here) were no longer offered. I wound up taking courses that were suitable enough, but not exactly



MARY LINDSLEY
managing editor

what I wanted to do.

I should have asked how difficult it would be to get a scholarship. I learned that no matter what your GPA is, no matter how wonderful your letters of recommendation are, no matter how many extra-curricular activities you have, getting a scholarship here is like pulling teeth. Shortly after I transferred here, I was told by an employee in the financial aid office that the only scholarship I would have been eligible for was a transfer student scholarship, and that there had been only one available. Goodbye financial aid, hello debt.

There were other things I should have asked more pointed questions about: the parking situation, the level of student involvement on campus, etc. Because I didn't, I ended up with a school that had a few good things going for it, but not as many as I would have liked.

When I saw the tour group last week, I had considered sneaking over to them and feeding questions to them, but thought it better not to cause any trouble. As I continued on my way, I started to wonder why the issues I mentioned should be of concern only to prospective students. Why aren't current UM-St. Louis students concerned about these types of things as well? Why was there so little protest when the faculty members of the University Senate voted to give themselves the right to use our parking spaces? Why do we say nothing when departmental budgets are slashed and courses get cut? Why don't we demand more money for scholarships?

Maybe the reason we keep quiet is the same reason I walked away from the tour group without saying anything—nobody wants to start any trouble.



Joe Rosick
Freshman/Undecided

"I'm going to register. I plan on voting for John McCain."



Kelly Timmermeyer
Freshman/Undecided

"Not voting."



Matt Daub
Senior/French

"I still need to register, but I plan on voting."



Margo-Lea Hurwicz
Faculty/Anthropology Gerontology

"Of course, but I do not wish to reveal my political views."

Student senators want more direct shuttle routes

BY BENJAMIN ISRAEL
staff editor

Take the shuttle from the circle to the Honors College and it takes about 18 minutes. But the return trip takes 18 minutes, according to its schedule. That's because the return trip takes you by University Meadows, Marillac Hall, the Barnes College of Nursing, Seton Hall and the south MetroLink station before reaching the circle.

At its Feb. 1 meeting, the Student Senators Organization passed a resolution asking that one of the three campus shuttle buses be rerouted so that it just goes from the circle to the Honors College to the South Campus Residence Center for a few hours in the afternoon.

"Ninety percent of the people riding the shuttle at that time are going from the Honors College to North Campus," said D. Mike Bauer, a student senator who spoke in favor of the resolution.

The Student Senate Organization, which consists of the students who have been elected to the University Senate, has no power but makes recommendations to the full Senate.

The shuttle runs from 7:30 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and until 3:30 p.m. on Fridays. At peak times, shuttles run as often as five times an hour over a single route that goes as far south as the nursing school, as far north as Mansion Hill and the Educational Park with two stops at the circle. The whole circuit takes 38 minutes, according to its schedule.

"All the drivers are such congenial people," Bauer said, "if you ask them to stop, they stop."

Shuttle riders interviewed for the story said they like the service but



Mutsumi Igarashi/The Current

Yuka Sato (center) boards a shuttle bus last Friday. Student senators voted Feb. 1 to recommend changing the shuttle routes.

often wish its routes were more direct, and later and more often.

"The shuttle service is excellent," said Kanako Zaitu, a senior majoring in psychology who lives in Mansion Hill and has no car. "I don't mind walking during the daytime, but I don't want to walk at night. I wish the shuttle ran on weekends also."

"They need to get to the north MetroLink faster instead of making it the last stop," said Antoinette Madison, a junior in biology. "Most of the time, I have to get to work after

class."

After Madison boards the shuttle at Benton Hall, it drives past Mark Twain, the Educational Park and Mansion Hill before dropping her off at the bus stop at Bellerive Drive 14 minutes later.

"The shuttle is flexible," said Bob Roeseler, director of University Police, which runs the shuttle. "If there is a need that's proven to exist . . . [w]e must make sure we provide as much as possible with the funds that are available."

SCHLANT-BRADLEY, from page 1

vision for America in broader themes. Many times he'll go back to this notion of thinking outside the box. He doesn't use those terms, that's kind of a corporate term, but he criticizes Gore because he says [that he doesn't] feel that education is just a box with a bunch of programs in it. He feels that it's larger. So, his health care proposal is, in his vision, imperative to education because kids can't go to school without good nutrition and if they're hungry they're not going to learn, and if they're sick they're not going to learn. His vision is very broad. It's not abstract. It's specific. But it seems to me that it's very theoretical and in

some ways theoretically complicated. Now how that plays amongst the American public is open," Caliendo said, "We usually want specific policy preferences. We can understand that stuff."

Schlant-Bradley also said many Bradley supporters are from the disenchanted or have never been involved in politics before. She said that it is important that college students get involved in the political process.

"It is very, very important that you go out, and that you go out and help now and that you will be going canvassing. And above all on March 7,

which is the day of the primary, we need lots and lots of volunteers to get people to the polls," Schlant-Bradley said. "We have our grass roots, and we have our students, and we have our citizens who really want Bill because, and I'm not biased I can say that, Bill is the best candidate."

Schlant-Bradley took a leave of absence from her position as a professor of German and comparative literature to assist in her husband's campaign. She has taught at Montclair State University in New Jersey since 1971. She has also held visiting professorships at Yale and Columbia Universities.

MOCK TRIAL, from page 1

David Young, the dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, said he didn't know whether Caliendo or Mock Trial would be back next year.

"You need to put this in context," Young said. "The University is going through a reallocation of resources."

Young said plans call for giving faculty members bigger raises than in the past, and that might mean fewer faculty positions. The University is offering some faculty early retirement and may not replace everyone who leaves.

"One possibility will be that people who are still here will receive more substantial pay increases," Young said. "The net result of that is

there will be fewer faculty positions."

Does that mean hiring more part-time faculty or raising class sizes or offering fewer classes?

"I don't know," Young said. "We haven't finalized next year's budget."

Young said he expects two political science professors to retire, but he doesn't know whether the University will hire anyone to replace them.

Where does this leave Caliendo?

"My goal is to secure a tenure track position," Caliendo said. "I love it here, but the funds don't seem to be available for a tenure-track position."

Even if they were, Caliendo would have to compete against other applicants for the job.

All the Mock Trial participants contacted said they want it back next year.

"I'm a military brat, and I've been all around the world, and this was the most amazing thing for me," Esperanto said. "It was a learning experience. Not only do you learn about the law, but about people. You learn to work with other people. You learn problem-solving skills."

Anita Steed said she learned more from Mock Trial than any class. "I learned what attorneys really go through," the political science major said. "The biggest thing is everybody's cooperating on this. Everybody has to pull together."

ELECTIONS, from page 1

Angie Schmidt, a junior majoring in chemistry and a former student senator, said many students aren't interested.

"I don't think anyone knows what the Senate does, and how important it is for the campus," Schmidt said.

She added that enthusiasm for the election might be down because "the

faculty, I think, does pretty much what they want."

The Senate is holding the election despite its decision to split into two bodies: a Faculty Senate and a University Assembly. The Board of Curators must approve the change for it to go into effect. The board may vote on the change at its meeting March 23

and 24.

Under the new plan, students would have 13 seats in one of two houses of the new bicameral legislature. The faculty would have 40 seats.

Speaking on Thursday, Kerley said, "We don't know if we're going to need 13 or 25, but three isn't enough in any case."

SABC, from page 1

employed by the SABC this year, Shaw said, is discussing budgets through e-mail. All SABC members are on a listserv and discuss budgets throughout the week, instead of limiting their conversations to Friday afternoons.

Shaw said each of the SABC members gets one budget to study and analyze throughout the week. Then those members can ask questions or get feedback through the list-

serv outside of the group's regular meeting times. Then, Shaw said, those budgets are discussed at the beginning of each meeting and a general consensus among the SABC members is reached based on their discussions earlier in the week.

Josh Stegeman, a current SABC member who has served on the committee for three years, said the listserv has sped things up considerably compared to the previous years.

The listserv "has streamlined the process significantly and may allow the committee to complete tentative allocations in record time," Stegeman said.

Shaw said he hopes to have tentative allocations sent to all student organizations requesting their budgets by early April. Then, Shaw said, student organizations will have the right to appeal the tentative allocations.

FERPA FORUM, from page 1



Michelle Van Iseghem/The Current

G. Gary Grace, vice-chancellor for Student Affairs, and Joanne Bocci, interim associate vice chancellor for Student Affairs, listen to students explain their concerns about the implementation of FERPA on campus.

Michael Rankins, Student Government Association acting president, said he is concerned about administrators who are not qualified to make judgments that lead to labeling students alcoholics.

"It could have very serious ramifications," Rankins said. "In the first place, I don't want to see that on any student's permanent record. Also, I would think that not only are there ethical implications because it is unethical to use those labels if you're not trained to do so, but they have legal implications. If you call me an alcoholic, and you don't know what

you are talking about, that is slanderous."

Joe Flees, representative for the UM-St. Louis chapter of Associated Students of the University of Missouri, mediated the meeting. He said he thought the forum was successful.

"I think the students had a lot of their questions answered," Flees said. "We understand that it is in the works on how it will be implemented today, and I think the forum was successful in that."

The new FERPA guidelines will go into effect at the beginning of next

school year. Grace said he hopes to have UM-St. Louis' guidelines submitted for approval to the UM system president, Manuel Pacheco, either in March or April.

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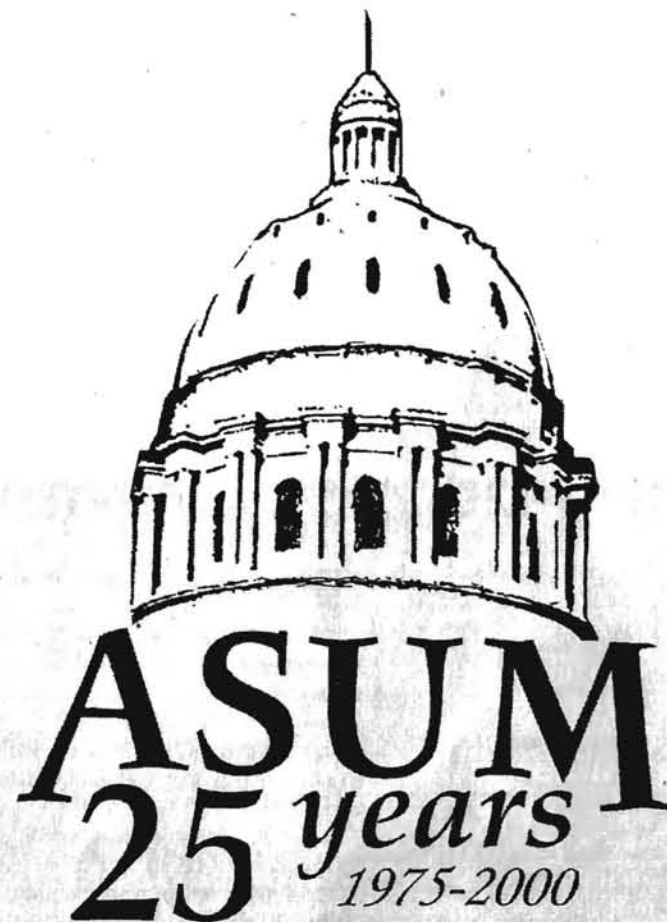
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Four Undergraduate Board Members
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**ASUM
Board of Directors**

two for one year terms to expire in
March 2001
and
two for terms to expire in
September 2000
at the SGA Meeting on
Thursday, March 16 at 2:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Steven Wolfe, acting SGA vice president, at 516-5105, or stop by the SGA office located in 262 University Center.



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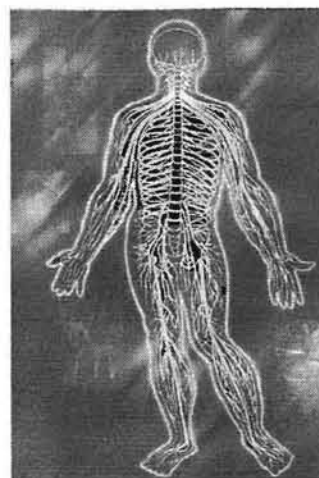
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**Upcoming
Concerts**

March

2

Sevendust w/ P.O.D.
Pop's

3

Superfuzz
The Firehouse

Vargas Swing
Galaxy

10

E.M. Grueve
The Firehouse

Big Blue Monkey CD
Release Party
Galaxy

14

V For Vendetta
Hi Pointe

16

Flaming Lips
The Firehouse

17

G Love & Special Sauce
Mississippi Nights

18

Matthew Sweet
Blueberry Hill

Filter w/ Chevelle
American Theatre

22

H2O
Galaxy

ALBUM REVIEW

Worth the wait



Apollo Four Forty's latest album puts it near top of electronica field

BY CORY BLACKWOOD
staff editor

Apollo Four Forty is a hard-to-classify group. Techno seems like an obvious moniker, but their new album has too many elements for that to stick. There's rock, pop, punk and, of course, techno.

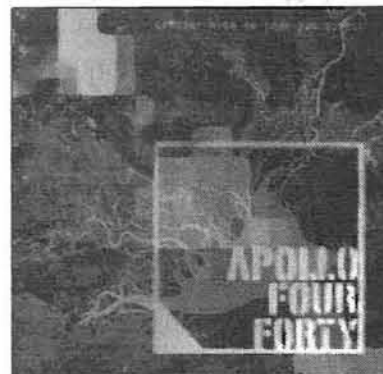
Amazingly, it all melds together perfectly. "Stop the Rock," the opening track on "Gettin' High on Your Own Supply," sounds like a Beach Boys song run through a blender, and it is just as fun as "Good Vibrations" or any other song by that classic surf group.

Since 1997's "Electro Glide in Blue," Apollo Four Forty has been on cloud nine, with their songs appearing on soundtracks like "The Jackal" and "Lost in Space," and on nearly every techno or drum 'n' bass compilation under the sun. These guest appearances have heightened the public's attention to the band, and created quite a buzz about them.

Expectations were high for the group's next album, since fellow musicians Fatboy Slim and The Chemical Brothers had all but stolen the scene in the two-and-a-half-year break Apollo Four Forty took between album releases. It has turned out to be time well spent, and "Gettin' High on Your Own Supply" is the proof of that. While Fatboy Slim and The Chemical Brothers went for a very electronic approach and alienated guitars on their new albums,

'Gettin' High on Your Own Supply'

Artist: Apollo Four Forty
Label: Epic/550 Music
Our opinion: ★★★★★



Apollo Four Forty embraced rock's most important instrument, and used it for their own means. "Heart Go Boom!" is a perfect example of strong guitars in a very techno-sounding song, and it is also one of many highlights on the album.

The field of electronica is too new to truly have a list of classic albums, but musicians like Moby, Fatboy Slim, The Chemical Brothers and the Propellerheads have displayed enough talent and quality to classify themselves as classics in their own time. Apollo Four Forty has just placed their name on the short list with "Gettin' High on Your Own Supply."

FILM REVIEW

'Hanging Up' tries, fails to be heartwarming

BY MARY LINDSLEY
senior editor

'Hanging Up'

Length: 92 min.
Rated: PG-13
Our opinion: ★★★

Cute. Everything about "Hanging Up," the new film starring Meg Ryan, Diane Keaton and Lisa Kudrow, is cute. Ryan is cute. The dialogue is cute. Even the huge Clydesdale of a dog Ryan's character gets roped into baby-sitting is cute.

The fact that "Hanging Up" teems with cuteness is no surprise. The film was co-written by Nora Ephron (along with her sister, Delia), writer and director of "Sleepless in Seattle" and "You've Got Mail." While Ephron's past work has focused on the relationships between men and women, this film studies the relationship between an elderly father and his three daughters.

The father is Lou Mozell (Walter Matthau), a screenwriter from Hollywood's Golden Era who loves to wax poetic about his glory days writing scripts for John Wayne. Lou's mind and his body are beginning to fail him, something that becomes an ever-increasing burden to his daughter, Eve (Ryan). She tries to cater to her father's needs as well as she can—bringing him Chinese food in the hospital, taking his constant phone calls, soothing his worries—but time spent with her father means time away from the other pressing concerns in her life: her husband, her son and her brand-new party-planning business.

Eve has two sisters, but both seem more concerned with their own lives than with sharing responsibility for the care of their father with Eve. Georgia, the eldest sister (Keaton, who also directed the film),

is the editor of a self-titled women's magazine. Maddy (Kudrow) is the slightly dingy youngest sister who's building a career as a soap opera actress. Through a series of flashback sequences, Eve finds herself trying to sort out her relationships with her father, her sisters and her mother (Cloris Leachman), a woman who walked out on her family decades earlier and who has had little contact with them since.

"Hanging Up" tries to be one of those movies that makes you laugh, makes you cry, and in the end, leaves you with a warm, fuzzy feeling. Because of its script, it fails on all counts. There are some humorous bits of dialogue in the film, but none manage to be as clever or as funny as the Ephron sisters are capable of writing—something you'll notice if you've ever read Nora's novel "Heartburn" or Delia's classic humor book "How to Eat Like a Child."

The film's dramatic moments are often cheap gimmicks designed to pull at viewers' heartstrings, such as the flashback scene in which a drunken Lou ruins his grandson's birthday party—who can resist a weepy five-year-old? The movie offers no new insights on ailing parents or family relationships.

The script also fails to give its actors a chance to stretch. While Ryan can be fun to watch, her role

see **HANGING UP**, page 8

FILM REVIEW

Fifty-year-old is poignant, funny in coming-of-age story

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
staff editor

"Wonder Boys" is a partly comic, partly dramatic film, which is essentially, as director Curtis Hanson put it, "a coming of age story about a 50 year-old." The 50 year-old is writer Grady Tripp (Michael Douglas), a "wonder boy" with the publication of his successful and critically-acclaimed first novel seven years ago, but who is now drifting through life as a writing teacher at an East Coast college. And then in one weekend beset with problems, all the issues that have been piling up in his life suddenly descend on Grady, giving him, and us, a comic ride as he tries to sort things out.

That weekend, the English department of Grady's college is hosting its annual literary festival, which is being kicked off by a party at the home of the English department's chair. Grady is expected to attend, although he is being beset with his own problems already: his much younger wife has finally left him, and his long-patient editor, Terry Crabtree (Robert Downey, Jr.), is arriving to check on his progress on the book he's been working on for the past seven years. Grady is an irritable, irresponsible, disheveled character, who would rather avoid than confront these various problems. More problems heap themselves on Grady at this party: he finds out that Sara Gaskell (Frances McDormand), chancellor of the college, with whom Grady is having an affair and who is married to Walter Gaskell (Richard Thomas), the head of the English department, is pregnant with his child. What's more, Hannah Green (Katie Holmes), the intelligent



This is where a caption will go someday. But for now, poor Michael must stand out in the cold and wait for us to write him one....orrrrr... is it a malevolent conspiracy? muahahahaha!!!!

'Wonder Boys'

Length: 109 min.
Rated: R
Our opinion: ★★★???

and beautiful young student who rents a room from him, has a crush on him, and a promising writing student, James Leer (Tobey Maguire), whom Grady had hoped to encourage, unexpectedly shows up outside the Haskell's house. James is intelligent and a gifted writer but is socially isolated and appears depressed and strange. Through a weird series of events, Grady and James are forced to

deal with a dead dog, the snarling blind pet of the host. This is just the beginning of Grady's troubles for the weekend, all problems that he would rather avoid.

The film is character-centered, with real character development and intelligent dialog, and fine acting by all the cast. Douglas' Grady is grumpy, slovenly, and evasive, but is somehow a likeable person anyway. McDormand is excellent as the chancellor who was as complacent as Grady, but who must now make some choices and reminds Grady that he has to make some choices as well. Maguire is marvelous as the mysteri-

see **WONDER BOYS**, page 8

Teeny-bopper Grammys ceremony is unforgiveable transgression

The Grammys ceremony aired last Wednesday night, and wasn't it a great one? Weren't the performers all memorable musicians and weren't their productions all wonderful? What do you mean you didn't watch the 42nd Grammy Award show? Don't worry, you didn't miss a thing.

People's tastes as a whole have nearly dropped off the scales, at least in the department of respectability. If "Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire" wasn't enough, watching Britney Spears lip-sync with a bunch of faux-robot dancers (!) and Ricky Martin do whatever he does surely did the trick. Even more disheartening was the performance of legendary Elton John, whose backup singers

consisted of all five members of the Backstreet Boys.

Kid Rock was the only redeeming performance, and that was simply because he brought out his cursing midget buddy Joe-C, who was forced to quit touring due to an illness. Kid Rock also managed to sneak in a cover of "We're an American Band" in his performance, including the line, "We'll come to your town, we'll pull your panties down." While this may have not been very intellectually stimulating, it was at least entertaining.

So, why have all the unoriginal boy bands and little off-beat dancing girl routines, you ask? It appears the Grammys have finally given up and are now simply playing to the lowest common denominator—money.

Teens have all the spending power in the music business (how else could the Backstreet Boys sell any albums?)—so the Grammys will book them for ratings. A sad display, but what else would one expect in this day and age?

What's worse is that Christina Aguilera, also known as the trashy version of Britney Spears, actually won an award for best new artist. That is not surprising once you recall that record companies get votes, and larger record companies get more votes, thus eliminating any illusion of fairness.

There is no need for anyone of college age to watch the Grammys anymore, mostly because the award show does not appeal to music fans and only

panders to the teenybopper generation.

On top of these transgressions of the previously honored award ceremony, there was an announcement that starting this year there will be a Latin Music Grammys every year. I must have missed the announcement on the British Grammys, Rap Grammys, Metal Grammys and Polka Grammys, because I know the organizers wouldn't be so shallow as to only feature one culture of music in an internationally televised award show, right? Wrong. But Latin music had a more explosive year than any other genre, so if it is given all of the attention now, maybe people will buy more Latin albums before everyone gets sick of it.

In previous years, the Grammys have been embarrassed by poor teleprompting, forcing hosts like Kelsey Grammer to never get cued correctly, and even poorer security, forcing musicians like Bob Dylan to play next to some shirtless moron with "Soy Bomb" emblazoned on his chest. Never before, however, has the award show embarrassed itself to this extent.

I would ask everyone to take a stand and not watch the Grammys next year, but that isn't necessary. Everyone has already decided that they don't want to. I guess next year I can flick and hope to catch something entertaining, like "Who Wants to Watch Women Try and Marry Simply for Money?" Maybe I should just throw my television out the window.



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ON THE WEB

Mardi Gras webcams provide amusement

BY CORY BLACKWOOD
staff editor

Mardi Gras is fast approaching, and for everyone who knows, that means big partying, big drinking and big, um, never mind.

New Orleans is commonly known as the American mecca for Mardi Gras, and the whole French Quarter fills to capacity during the week-long extravaganza. Hotels near Bourbon Street usually skyrocket into the thousands per night, and many end up sleeping in cars. If you don't feel like driving 12 hours just to sleep in your car, you can always head out to our own Souldard for the second biggest Mardi Gras celebration in the U.S. and brave the crowds (and possible police riots) there.

Sound like too much? You can still experience Mardi Gras from the safety of your own computer. Log on to www.mardigras.com and experience the debauchery of Bourbon Street in real time. That's right, www.mardigras.com has live webcams broadcasting from various points throughout the French Quarter.

There's the Oyster Cam, broadcasting from the ACME Oyster Bar,

the BourboCam on the corner Bourbon and St. Peters streets, the Zoom Cam, where one can actually pinpoint where they want the camera to focus, a camera focusing on the indoor karaoke bar, and a Balcony Bead Cam where you can see people flashing, um, things for beads.

While this may not show a true example of New Orleans culture, there will surely be a lot of drunk tourists to laugh at. If drunk tourists are not your cup of tea, you can log on during non-Mardi Gras days and watch lost tourists, as well. Trust me, with their cameras and maps, they are easy to find.

Even if you do head down to Souldard to celebrate with real people, give mardigras.com a look to see the original party animals of this nation.



Homebound Mardi Gras
partiers might enjoy visiting www.mardigras.com. The website features live webcams in various parts of New Orleans for your viewing pleasure.

WONDER BOYS, from page 6

ous and difficult James Leer who is delighted to be in the company of his professor, and Downey is comic as the flamboyant editor who wants to be supportive but is under pressure from the publisher to produce the book.

The story moves along well from problem to problem with all the characters working in concert to add their bits of both comedy and drama. The plot is supported by touches in the sets

and locations. The winter Pittsburgh locations, Grady's messy disorganized Victorian home in a neighborhood of similar modest homes, and the manual typewriters everyone seems to use all give the viewer the feeling that everyone here is stuck in the past.

The film is both funny and poignant, with nicely developed characters. The story is told episodically,

through the characters' interactions and dialogue, and the photography and direction play a subtle role. While it is hardly an artistic milestone, the whole audience seemed to enjoy this film about a "wonder boy" who at 50 finally grows up.

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HANGING UP, from page 6

seems to be a recycled version of sweet, perky characters in Ryan's past few films (some of which are Ephron films). The character of Maddy is a little too similar to Kudrow's television role as Phoebe on "Friends." The only cast member of "Hanging Up" who is able to truly rise above the screenplay is Matthau, who has one of the toughest roles in the movie. On his good days, Lou is the same spirited man his daughters know and love; on his bad days, he can become as vulnerable as a child. Matthau nails a character veering back and forth between two extremes.

Other elements of the film just don't ring true or make sense. An Iranian doctor and his mother are worked into the script for reasons that never really become clear. The Ephrons seem unable to decide whether Lou is someone audiences should like; sometimes he's a monster, and sometimes he's a saint.

Finally, the ending of the film is too trite. The Mozell sisters manage to clear up years of squabbling and ups and downs in their relationships by simply having a food fight in Eve's kitchen.

How cute.

ALBUM REVIEW

'Double Take' is refreshing change for veteran Christian rockers Petra

BY JOSH RENAUD
staff editor

"Double Take" may be one of the most appropriate album titles I've ever seen. Longtime Petra fans will probably check the label again after listening to this album to make sure they were listening to the band they thought they were.

Petra has existed in one form or another since Bob Hartman founded the pioneer band in 1972 as a way to reach his generation with his message about Jesus Christ. Petra eventually became the world's best selling Christian rock band with over 6 million records sold. Needless to say, they have fans of all ages and nationalities who love Petra's variety of hard rock.

Last year, Hartman and the band members decided to try something radically different. What they have done is take 10 of Petra's most powerful and popular songs and remake them, along with crafting two new songs. The songs were completely rearranged and recorded with acoustic guitars, some sampling, and a live orchestra. The result is a unique and refreshing sound that goes far beyond a "live in the studio" rerecord album.

Petra took a big risk in recording "Double Take." The obvious goal of this album is to reach a new audience with their music, and the quality of this CD will probably make that pos-

'Double Take'
Artist: Petra
Label: Word Records
Our opinion: ★★★



sible. But how will longtime fans react to hearing toned-down versions of their favorite rock songs, even if the new arrangements are innovative?

Many songs really soar, like "Beyond Belief," which most fans probably won't recognize until it gets to the chorus. The entire song is smooth and builds with slow intensity. "Dance" features a very danceable rhythm and some interesting acoustic hooks that make the song fit its theme even better than the original. On the flip side of the coin, a couple songs, like "Beat the System," just don't work as well because the techno and battle themes of the lyrics seem out of place with the acoustic music.

Though it's being billed as an acoustic album, that description doesn't really seem to evoke the right mental image of the music on "Double Take." The songs are very rich, mostly because of the use of the orchestra behind the guitar, bass, and drums, as well as the limited use of harmonicas, some "wah-wah" electric guitar parts, and sampling. As usual, John Schlitt's lead vocals carry the songs and punch

the lyrics through to the listener. In the past, Schlitt's four-octave voice could reach a little too far for the casual listener, but on "Double Take" he keeps his singing surprisingly low-key and it works well.

The biggest surprise on the album is the song "Breathe In," where Schlitt hands the vocal duties over to lead guitarist Pete Orta, who also wrote the song. Orta does an excellent job behind the microphone and pulls the listener into his world as he earnestly shares his desire to be close to God.

All in all, "Double Take" is bound to receive a mixed reaction from fans. The music is very good, but some diehard fans of Petra's hard rock will probably be disappointed by this downshift in tempo and hold out for the next album.



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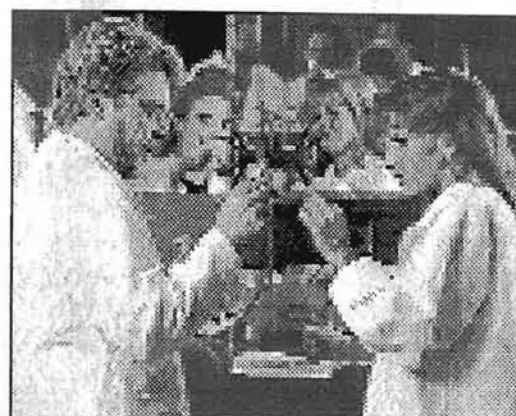
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